

Freedom Watch



Citizens Project

A Values-Affirming Moment of Silence

by Dr. Deane Berson

Most people agree that America has some formidable social problems. These include out-of-wedlock births and crime rates, the fall in academic proficiency and integrity of families, and the frequency with which citizens attempt to transfer to others responsibilities for their own actions. This proposal would help American students develop a moral core to guide their conduct and help avoid these problems.

The proposal

To establish a "values-affirming moment of silence" for our public schools, Congress would pass legislation that would

have each public school class, kindergarten through high school, conduct a moment of silence at the beginning of each school day. That moment of silence would take place after a student or teacher recited the following introduction: *"This moment of peace is for us to silently think about what inspires us to be the best person we can be, practicing compassion and justice, courage and accountability, honor and community, and showing the respect for students and teachers throughout the day that we wish to receive from them."*

The legislation would explicitly state that nothing would be added to or deleted from these words and that positions asso-

ciated with prayer (e.g., bowed head, folded hands) would not be mentioned (neither encouraged nor discouraged). Only silence and respect for the silence of others would be required.

The many benefits

Because both students and teacher participate (on a rotating basis) and because the words of the introduction to the moment of silence are fixed by law, there is little risk of an authority imposing their own particular religious, humanistic, or other philosophy on the students.

"This moment of peace is for us to silently think about what inspires us to be the best person we can be, practicing compassion and justice, courage and accountability, honor and community, and showing the respect for students and teachers throughout the day that we wish to receive from them."

— Proposed introduction to a moment of silence

This proposal avoids the church/state separation issue of prescribing a certain prayer or prayer in general. For many students, "what inspires us" is God, and these students might use the period of silence to silently pray. Others might focus their attention on a poem or an admired person as a source of inspiration. Those with no source of inspiration might start thinking about it, perhaps later talking with each other or with their families.

This proposal would begin each day with a moral anchor and core, with values that the school, faculty, and students in essence agree to share. Students would start each day by focusing on common goals so a feeling of community can develop.

[Continued on Page 2]

CFV Revises Holocaust, Now Blames Gays

Colorado for Family Values, ever searching for new reasons to malign gays and lesbians, is now preaching a revisionist approach to the World War II Holocaust, during which millions died in Nazi concentration camps. Here are CFV's recent reflections on Nazi inhumanity: *"Homosexuality actually played a key role in the psychology of Nazi brutality. In fact, 'macho' homosexuality inspired the ruthlessness of the entire regime."* CFV's startling conclusions preface the lead story in the April CFV Report newsletter.

CFV's rhetoric paints a unique picture of the Nazi regime, which in fact targeted and systematically exterminated certain groups, including Jews, Gypsies, and homosexuals. Indeed, this month's Holocaust memorial services here in Colorado Springs pay tribute to those victims of the Nazi concentration camps. But the CFV statement disparages this traditional view of Nazi war crimes and their victims as "the party line."

Can Colorado For Family Values successfully frame homosexuals as Nazis? Many think that these new "Nazi" claims only serve to again call CFV's own credibility into question and underline its extremism.

More importantly, however, the CFV statements encourage their supporters to further distrust and dislike gays and lesbians, and perhaps even to believe that they, like the Nazis, are the incarnation of evil. Will CFV's new "gay as Nazi" campaign further empower its supporters to new attacks on gays?

Even as the CFV rhetoric becomes more strident, CFV's mobile crusade continues to

ride the roads against gays in Colorado. They recently announced a series of "Time to Stand" seminars around the state to bolster anti-homosexual sentiments and quash any local actions that might acknowledge homosexuality.

Their recent Greeley seminar was timed to support charges by high school coach David VanderMolen that two female athletic instructors in his school are lesbians. Advertisements for their March Grand Junction seminar complained about advocacy of homosexuality by the local library, which had prepared a display

of books about homosexual issues.

More seminars are presently scheduled for Littleton, Walsh, Lamar, Lake-wood, Canon City, Alamosa/ Monte Vista, and Pagosa Springs/ Durango. Apparently concerned for its own backyard, CFV has announced two "Time to Stand" seminars for Colorado Springs. They are scheduled May 1 and June 5 at Pulpit Rock Church.



"Homosexuality actually played a key role in the psychology of Nazi brutality. In fact, 'macho' homosexuality inspired the ruthlessness of the entire regime."
— April CFV newsletter

This month we remember the shocking crimes of the Holocaust of World War II. We cannot by our silence allow new right-wing groups like CFV to succeed in their continuing campaign to degrade individuals and groups in our society. And, we cannot silently allow them to demean our remembrance of the Holocaust and its victims by revising this history for their own political ends. Instead, we must live its lessons — to speak out against intolerance and to promote the positive values of respect and concern for our fellow citizens. CP

Silence is Golden

Our February *Freedom Watch* contained a lengthy article on school prayer. This article described a rising interest in a "moment of silence" for public schools. Dr. Deane Berson, a local psychiatrist, recently sent Citizens Project his proposal for such a moment of silence, and the *Gazette Telegraph* newspaper has published this proposal. Given the expected controversy if and when the U.S. Congress considers a school prayer amendment (which is expected later this year), his ideas are very timely.

Dr. Berson's actual proposal is 18 pages and well worth reading. His extensive comments on the concerns raised by others are particularly illuminating. Dr. Berson has already sent copies of his proposal to Rep. Joel Hefley and Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell; if you think this proposal has merit, you can phone their local offices: Hefley at 520-0055, and Campbell at 636-9092.

You can obtain your free copy of Dr. Berson's complete proposal by calling 634-2836.

Citizens Project
P.O. Box 2085
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Colo. Spgs., CO
Permit No. 463

New Ruling on Student Prayer at Graduations

In a major new ruling on school graduation prayers, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that student-sponsored prayers at graduation ceremonies were unconstitutional. In this case, Idaho high school seniors voted to have a graduation prayer, to be delivered by one of the graduating students. The school board took a hands-off approach on the form and content of the prayer, letting students vote on these matters. Indeed, the Idaho school board even had a disclaimer printed on the program, stating that it did not endorse the student prayer. Student attendance at the graduation event was not required in order to receive a high school diploma. So why was this prayer held to be unconstitutional?

The Ninth Circuit judges (all of whom were appointed by Republican presidents) looked to the source of the students' authority to conduct graduation prayers. The judges found that the school board sponsored and had control of the graduation ceremony, and had decided to delegate a portion of that control to the students. Because the students were acting under the authority of the school board, they were constitu-

tionally prohibited from school prayer actions to the same extent that the school board itself was prohibited. Further, the graduation ceremony, although nominally voluntary, was in practice attended by all as a rite of passage. And finally, the judges rejected the claim that the prayer was used simply to solemnize this event, as such a rationale "is insufficient in this case to secularize what is objectively and inherently religious."

What about the students' right to religious expression? The Ninth Circuit opinion held that this was not at issue, as a high school graduation is not a public forum where all persons have the opportunity to express themselves freely.

The Ninth Circuit decision applies in the states of California, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska, and Hawaii. This decision reached an opposite result from an earlier, much-publicized, Fifth Circuit decision on similar facts. The Tenth Circuit, which includes Colorado, has not decided this issue. Eventually, the constitutionality of student-sponsored graduation prayer will be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. **CP**

Holocaust Memorials

Please plan to attend the Holocaust Memorial service 8 p.m. Thursday, April 27 at the Pikes Peak Center, 190 South Cascade. The program commemorates the 50th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust. The program will include music, readings, and testimony-

als, and features the Colorado Springs Symphony. Its goal: "to reflect upon the Holocaust and to educate the young people of our community about the Nazi genocide." Tickets are \$10.50; call 520-SHOW.

A second Holocaust service is Colorado College's sixth

annual Holocaust Commemoration, to be held 7 p.m. Wednesday May 3 at the college's Packard Hall. This event includes candlelighting, poetry and musical selections. Packard Hall is on the southwest corner of Cascade and Cache La Poudre. **CP**

Moment of Silence

[Continued from Page 1]

By requiring this practice, the nation restores authority to a particular code of moral values (striving to be the best person one can be, compassion, justice, courage, accountability, honor, community, and respect) without which all societies fail. Yet the nation refrains from influencing which inner source of inspiration (to live by these values) each student chooses.

The many concerns

After reading this proposal, some local citizens and groups have expressed concerns. Here are some:

- There should be spoken prayer instead.
- A moment of silence will lower the wall of separation between church and state.
- It's naive to think students (and perhaps teachers) of the 90's would go along with this.
- It's too much regimentation, and a rote exercise has no value.
- It won't make any difference.
- The government has no role in teaching values; values must be taught in the home.
- Public schools are already teaching values.
- Moral values can only be taught from a Judeo-Christian religious foundation.

The Golden Rule

The values-affirming moment of silence recognizes that many religions and philosophies promote moral principles and honorable behavior. If the "Golden

Rule" is essential to such behavior, then it is noteworthy that many nonreligious people subscribe to it and at least seven of the world's religions have a version of it in their sacred scriptures. Decent people from a variety of religions and philosophies agree that certain honorable values are necessary for the civilized functioning of society.

Our city

We cannot be a real community without a shared set of uplifting moral values. We can be grateful to religious conservatives for emphasizing to us the importance of this principle. Neither can we be a real community if the sacred personal beliefs of one group are imposed on other groups with equally sacred different personal beliefs. We can be grateful to religious liberals and humanistically-oriented people for emphasizing to us the importance of this principle.

Colorado Springs has, fairly or unfairly, become known beyond its borders for the polarization that exists between conservatives and liberals, between religious traditionalists and religious liberals and humanists. However, we need not be polarized on the issue of promoting decent behavior in our children. It would be an enjoyable irony if we could send to Washington a "moment of silence" plan based on cooperation between our so-called incurably polarized parties. **CP**

Inside CP

CP restructuring

We have been taking a closer look at what we do and how we do it. After reviewing our operation, we felt that Citizens Project can be leaner, more efficient and as effective by relying more on our spirited volunteers. Accordingly, we have eliminated the position of executive director and enlarged the board of directors and the volunteer corps. Executive Director Bill Huddy has left us this month, and we extend a very special thanks to him for the work he has done for Citizens Project. Pat Tolle is now our "communications central."

Our board of directors has expanded, and we welcome as new directors Jody Alyn, Gwen

Hall, and Marjory Webster. Amy Divine is taking a leave of absence due to her health, but will still be working on special projects (we can't keep her away!). We welcome Richard Skorman as the new board chair.

Office hours and volunteers

The Citizens Project office now has regular office hours 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday. However, we are often available and answering the phone other hours. We are currently looking for volunteers to work in the office Monday or Friday 1-4 p.m. and for someone with accounting skills (for about two hours per month); please call Pat at 520-9899 if you want to get involved. **CP**

News Briefs

New Life invites gay singers

New Life Church, which planned the 1995 Easter sunrise service at the Garden of the Gods, helped create a more inclusive worship of God in our community. They invited singers from Metropolitan Community Church, a Christian denomination with many gays and lesbians, to join the choir for the well-attended early morning service. According to newspaper reports, however, not everyone was pleased to sing God's praise in such diverse company.

Cornerstone: We can baptize anybody!

Cornerstone Baptist Church here in Colorado Springs made new headlines for allegations that it "accidentally" baptized a Jewish boy last February, even after agreeing not to do so. Ten other families called a local television station to say that their children were also baptized without permission. According to one of the children, a Cornerstone member told them that their first baptism didn't count. Cornerstone Church is already in court on a lawsuit, charged with luring children to a 1993 church carnival and baptizing nearly twenty of them without parental permission. Parents of at least two more children are expected to sue the church due to this latest incident.

In responding to the 1993 lawsuit, Cornerstone says it had the consent of the children, and no permission was required from the parents. That position forms a curious contrast to the traditional conservative religious stand on the importance for parental involvement in other critical decisions in a child's life.

Northglenn charter school controversy

A charter school in Northglenn (near Denver) had wanted to dismiss teachers who have sex outside of marriage. Now, the same school introduced creationist materials in one class. One of the student handouts suggested that students read the Bible "for the real truth." Parents, concerned that public tax money is being used by this charter school to promote restrictive religious views, have asked that the school charter be revoked.

Christian Coalition disputes Dobson

In his March letter to supporters, Dr. Dobson of Focus on the Family threatened to support a third-party candidate if the Republican Party nominated a presidential candidate who was not firmly pro-life. This letter was sent out to 112,000 clergy, 8,000 politicians, 1,500 members of the press, and the two million Focus supporters. However, support for that position is not universal among conservative Christian organizations. Speaking on television, Pat Robertson, head of Christian Coalition, dismissed Dobson's idea and left the door open to softening the GOP's platform on abortion.

New publications of interest

Want to know more about local political-religious activities? Then read the recently-expanded (16 pages!) *Ground Zero News*, which mines no words about Colorado For Family Values, Christian Coalition, and Focus on the Family. Call 635-6086 for a subscription - \$20 per year. In like vein, you can subscribe to *The Sentry*, a new and iconoclastic newsletter about our local political and religious scene. CFV's Kevin Tebedo has already threatened to sue them, so editor Rick Baker must be striking a nerve! \$2 for a sample copy, \$24 for a subscription to: The Sentry, Box 38014, Colorado Springs, CO 80937. **CP**

Coming Next Issue

The next *Freedom Watch* will feature the activities of our local Christian Coalition group, proudly touted by its chairman Chuck Gosnell as "the largest chapter in the United States."

A Very Special Thanks

to our Sustaining Partners and major contributors! Thank you for helping Citizens Project serve our community over the past three years!

Founders Circle (over \$1000):

Bold denotes Sustaining Partners

Ken Burrows
Chinook Fund
Amy Divine and Doug Triggs
Margi Duncombe and Zoa McGuire
Carolyn and Peet Heuberger
Recycle Records
Rita and Steve Randolph
Sisters of Loretto
Greg and Vahona Walta

Patrons (\$500-\$999):

Bold denotes Sustaining Partners

James and Jane Anderson
Mary and Dan Armour
Anonymous
Anonymous
Susan Bernstein
Esther Beynon and Alfred Metzger
Buck and Michelle Blessing
Chinook Bookshop, Inc.
Beth and David Chorpennig
Stephanie B. DiCenzo
and Kent H. Borges
Hal and Rita Divine
Marilyn Doenges
Charles and Jane Emery
Pattison Esmiol, MD
Eugene and Rhoda Finkelstein
Henry Goldman
John W. Harmon
H. Hamill Hartman
Karen Holman
Wayne Jarrett
Jean and Gerald Jones
Susan Langstaff
Robert and Sara Miner
Lisa Noll and Eric Leonard
Glenn Pressman and Laura Feldman
Joan E. Ray
Rob Ross and Patricia Crossey
Anonymous
Timothy Schweyen
Cindi Smith
Tricia Stevens and Robert Keyser
David Stinson
A.M. Strait, CPA
Janet Strouss and Richard Tallman
Julia Tanner
Julie Wolfe

Sponsors (\$250-\$499):

Bold denotes Sustaining Partners

Adrienne and Edwin Alyn
Molly and Michael J. Anfield
Bob and Judy Atwell
Joe Bachofen and Kristine Thompson
Jeffrey Bain
James and Betteanne Barash
Kent and Janice Bendall
Lois Benson and Jane Gazal
Edward Beshore and Amy Phillips
Jacquelyn Beyer
Edward and Katherine Bousquet
Jan and George Brazill
Rich Breidenbach
Bill and Wanda Brown
Marian and Jim Busey
Rosemae Wells Campbell
Anonymous
Jane Cauvel
Margaret Clay
Mary Collins-Shields
Colorado Springs Education Assoc.
Rhoda Cordry
Rev. W. Doug Counsell and Lorelee Bauer
John and Kathy Crandall
John Crumlin and Claire Forsyth
Susan Cullman
Rob and Laurie Danin
S. Diane Davis
Anonymous
Jim and Jan Diers
Pat and Bruce Doyle
Howard Drossman and Julie Francis
Michael Duncan
John Eames
Anonymous

R. Susan Easton

Jim Ebersole and Carol Maynard
Ronald K. Eby
William L. Elliott
Matt and Ann Carlisle Evans
Edward and Gerda Fletcher
Linda French
Larry and Barbara Gaddis
Ray and Charlotte Gagne
Bill Garmire
Margaret Garrett
Dr. Barry and Phyllis Goldmuntz
Lillian G. Gordon
Rob Gordon and Kathy Sullivan
Jackson and Sheila Gouraud
Pat Grant and Randy Wing
Rebecca Hale and Gary Betchan
Anne Han
Anonymous
Melanie and Sam Hazlehurst
C. Gaylord and Kathlyn Hendricks
M.E. Herens
Sharon Herrick
Annette Hicks
Anonymous
Dorothy Horton
Irving Howbert
Michael Huck
Anonymous
Ken and Sandy Jaray
Donna Johnson
Judy Jones
Beth Kaufman
Paul Kavanaugh
Robert and Sandra Keeley
James T. Keim
Kathy King
Anonymous
Rob Kolstad
Anonymous
Ellen Levy
Andrew and Sharon Lewis
Bruce Loeffler
Jerry Lopez and Sally Martin
Linda Lynch
Carol Magill
Kristina and David Maher
Alan E. Manley
Sam Edwards Marsh
Brad and Susan Marten
Anonymous
Sally Mellon and Larry Hutchinson
Kathy and Jim Merrill
Paula Miller and Barb Bailey
Franklin Mosher
John Patrick Michael Murphy
Sue Murray and Dave Aspenson
Thomas M. Noonan
Charles Odom
Pat and Bill Pfeiffer
Dave and Sharon Porter
Peggy Price
Jane Ragle and John M. Smith
Kate and Dennis Raphael, MD
Jack and Becky Reichardt
Colonel and Mrs. A.E. Reilly
Laurie Reilly
Anthony Ricci and Sharon Brunink
Rabbi Brant and Hallie Rosen
Elaine Ross
Lucy Ross
Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Rubinow
Darnell and Joy Rucker
Anonymous
Judith Sanderson
Susan Schreiner
Alan Severn, CPA
Howard Sheldon
John Shethar
Lil and Terry Sideris
Richard Skorman and Patricia Seator
Anonymous
Gail and Sid Snyder
Dr. Ron and Ellie Solomon
Gary and Chris Sondermann
Doug Stevenson
Irv and Barbara Strauss
Marie Sullivan
David and JoAnne Supperstein

Norma and Richard Taylor

Gerald and Rose Trigg
David Trillo
Mario and Donna Valdes
Ruth Williams
Lloyd E. Worner

Citizens (\$100-\$249):

Bold denotes Sustaining Partners

Maggie Abrams
Angie Adams
Liz Aikin
R. Hays Alexander
Douglass M. Allen
Linda M. Allen
Harry J. Anderson, MD
Katherine D. Anderson
Toby Anderson
Bob Armintor
Ann Armstrong
Brad Armstrong and Julie E. Dolin
Donna Arnink
Edward and Jacqueline Arnold
Kay S. Arnold
James and Marilyn Aubrey
Muriel Baay
Margaret A. Bacon
Mike and Kent Bader
Patrick Badovinac
Norton Bain
Lesla Bak
Susan Baker
Radine Barge
Judy Barnett
Mary and Frank Barry
Martha Barton
Tom K. Barton
Martha Bartz
Lee Baxandall
Jack Beal
Cynthia D. Beardslee
Cheryl Beck and Randy Mummert
Tom and Mary Beltz
Fred and Sarah Bender
Meg Benton
Dr. Mike Berman
Michael and Sheila Berman
Ann and Karl Bernhard
Deane Berson
Judy Bildstein
John Birkhead
William Birmingham
Mike and Georgia Blanco
Stewart and Shirley Bliss
Bill Bloebaum
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Blonder
Tim and Cate Boddington
Mr. and Mrs. William Boddington
Nanna Bolling
Laurie Bolster
Scott Bolte
Wendy Booth
Charles Bordner
Linda Bosserman
Kay Branine
Judith Brisbois
Linda and Jeff Broker
Penny A. Brown
Kenneth and Mary Burton
Barbara Buswell
Lauren Bynum
Charles L. Campbell
Barbara J. Carter
Ken and Christine Carter
Mimi Cavanaugh
Susan Chamberlain
Tim Cheek and Patricia Waters
A.F. Chew
Norma Christian
Phyllis Clark
Edward Cleveland
Cleverwood Crafts
Esther Clibon
CLIP
Cathy C. Clothier
Jay and Nancy Coakley
Elliot Cohen
Paul Coke and Greg Weeks
Norma Cole
Bruce and Ellie Coriell

Linda Coughlin
Karen Crafts
Albert F. Craig
Mary Cremonesi
Liz Groothof Croddy
Anne Cross
Bradley D. Crown
Barbara Cruze
Catherine Curran
Susan J. Dalnoky
Ernest and Martha D'Ambrosio
Bobby and Bobbie Daniel
Karen Dannewitz
James A. Davidson
Janine Davidson and Jill Gorman
Ken Davidson
Pati Davidson
Ginny and Al Davis
Linda Day
Gary and Susan Dean
Kathy Degi
Judy DeGroot
Darryl Deighton
Jenny Dent
Anonymous
Holly DeVore
Beverly B. Disch
Michael Dorey
Anonymous
Sara Douglass
Raleigh and Lewis Dove
H. Dowdell
Tom and Debbie Duchen
Andrew Dunham
Cheryl Dunn
Robin Dziama
Anonymous
Nancy Ecoff
Marc Edwards and Dennis Haddock
Jeff Eichengreen
Judi Ellias-Ochs and Andrew Ellias
Rev. Janet S. Emmons
and Thomas G. Whitten
Jim and Carolyn Engquist
Jan Erickson and Jon Thomas
Melody Essendrop-Fischer
and Bill Fischer
Kendra Ettenhofer
Frederic and Virginia Feiler
David Feinberg and Robin Lazrus
Anonymous
Sandra Felt
Ray Ferguson and Sara Mock
Anonymous
Doree A. Flinn and Diane Fabio
Scott and Debi Flora
Lois A. Fornander
Gwynn Fox and Mark Wild
Sharon Franz
Eva and Robert Frazier
Lynn and Michael Frederick
Elaine Freed
John and Gladys Fundingsland
Karen Gale
Elayne L. Gallagher
Betty Geller
Howard Gelt
Paula George
Heinz W. Geppert
Judy Gerber
Lynn Gisi
Dr. Chad Glang
Dr. Monte and Cynthia McKedy Golditch
Ruth and Saul Goldman
Susan P. and John C. Gould
David Grabove
Helen Grant
Ron and Sheila Green
David and Paulette Greenberg
Dr. Edie Greene and Dr. Alan Siegel
Jean Grisso
John and Judith Gudvangen
Kevin L. Gustafson
Anne Haber
Blair Hall
Jeff Haney
Linda Harroun
Leah A. Hauser
Kay Hay

Kurt Hayden
Janice N. Hays
Alan and Pamela Hazlett
Dallas and Donna Heltzell
Bob Henderson
James Henderson and Mary Pulvermacher
Nancy Henjum and Stephen Kern
Paula G. Herget
Matilda Hermann
Louise S. Hiatt
Susan Hindman
J. Hodge and L. Von De Bur
Jack Hollywood
David and Jean Holmgren
Barbara B. Hook
Dorothy Hornby
Nancy Howard and Richard Mello
Robert and Sara Howsam
Patricia Hudson
Karen and Sam Huff
Debbie Hunter
Lyn Iannazzo
R. Ieans
Gordon Jackson
Andy Jacobs
Jean Jauchen
Phillip and Ginger Jessen
Efton Jiles
Jan Johnson
Randy Johnson
Steven Jonas, MD, MPH
Bill V. Jones
Margaret E. Jones
Frank Jopp
S. Jorgensen
Ira and Lynn Joseph
Jock Joseph
Tasha and Jim Kalhorn
Ken and Phillippa Kassover
Judy Kava
Clark and Jean Keller
Dale Kemmerer
Doug Kendrick
Ken Kenney
Shirley Killeen
Cathy Kindquist
Anonymous
Anonymous
Carol Kleiner
Cathy Kleinsmith
Anonymous
Dr. Sandra Knight
Nancy and James Knipe
Richard A. Koc
Barbara and Richard Kohlhaas
Wayne and Peggy Kovsky
Allyn and Ellen Kratz
Kathy and Burl Kreps
Pat Kruchten and Doug Frost
Letitia Kruger
JoAnn Kuhar
John and Sharon Kurach
Mary Lou Kurtz and Don Frazier
Dr. Paul Kutsche
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Lamb
Denis and Patricia Lambert
Jay and Carolyn Lang
George and Josephine Langer
Margery R. Layton
Albert Lazzarini and Martha McInnes
Sheryl Leblanc
Virginia Lee
Ann Robinson Levy
Barton and Estelle Lewis
Hal Lindfelt
Cookie Little
Jeff Livesay and Wendy Fay
Wendy Lobdell
Joan Loecker
J.E. Losavio, Jr.
Anonymous
Mike and Nancy Maday
Karen Madsen
Jean Maio
Bill Marbaker
Margaret and Clement Markert
Marcia Maroon
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Marshall

[Continued on Page 4]

New Ruling on Student Prayer at Graduations

In a major new ruling on school graduation prayers, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that student-sponsored prayers at graduation ceremonies were unconstitutional. In this case, Idaho high school seniors voted to have a graduation prayer, to be delivered by one of the graduating students. The school board took a hands-off approach on the form and content of the prayer, letting students vote on these matters. Indeed, the Idaho school board even had a disclaimer printed on the program, stating that it did not endorse the student prayer. Student attendance at the graduation event was not required in order to receive a high school diploma. So why was this prayer held to be unconstitutional?

The Ninth Circuit judges (all of whom were appointed by Republican presidents) looked to the source of the students' authority to conduct graduation prayers. The judges found that the school board sponsored and had control of the graduation ceremony, and had decided to delegate a portion of that control to the students. Because the students were acting under the authority of the school board, they were constitu-

tionally prohibited from school prayer actions to the same extent that the school board itself was prohibited. Further, the graduation ceremony, although nominally voluntary, was in practice attended by all as a rite of passage. And finally, the judges rejected the claim that the prayer was used simply to solemnize this event, as such a rationale "is insufficient in this case to secularize what is objectively and inherently religious."

What about the students' right to religious expression? The Ninth Circuit opinion held that this was not at issue, as a high school graduation is not a public forum where all persons have the opportunity to express themselves freely.

The Ninth Circuit decision applies in the states of California, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska, and Hawaii. This decision reached an opposite result from an earlier, much-publicized, Fifth Circuit decision on similar facts. The Tenth Circuit, which includes Colorado, has not decided this issue. Eventually, the constitutionality of student-sponsored graduation prayer will be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. **CP**

Holocaust Memorials

Please plan to attend the Holocaust Memorial service 8 p.m. Thursday, April 27 at the Pikes Peak Center, 190 South Cascade. The program commemorates the 50th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust. The program will include music, readings, and testimony-

als, and features the Colorado Springs Symphony. Its goal: "to reflect upon the Holocaust and to educate the young people of our community about the Nazi genocide." Tickets are \$10.50; call 520-SHOW.

A second Holocaust service is Colorado College's sixth

annual Holocaust Commemoration, to be held 7 p.m. Wednesday May 3 at the college's Packard Hall. This event includes candlelighting, poetry and musical selections. Packard Hall is on the southwest corner of Cascade and Cache La Poudre. **CP**

Moment of Silence

(Continued from Page 1)

By requiring this practice, the nation restores authority to a particular code of moral values (striving to be the best person one can be, compassion, justice, courage, accountability, honor, community, and respect) without which all societies fail. Yet the nation refrains from influencing which inner source of inspiration (to live by these values) each student chooses.

The many concerns

After reading this proposal, some local citizens and groups have expressed concerns. Here are some:

- There should be spoken prayer instead.
- A moment of silence will lower the wall of separation between church and state.
- It's naive to think students (and perhaps teachers) of the 90's would go along with this.
- It's too much regimentation, and a rote exercise has no value.
- It won't make any difference.
- The government has no role in teaching values; values must be taught in the home.
- Public schools are already teaching values.
- Moral values can only be taught from a Judeo-Christian religious foundation.

The Golden Rule

The values-affirming moment of silence recognizes that many religions and philosophies promote moral principles and honorable behavior. If the "Golden

Rule" is essential to such behavior, then it is noteworthy that many nonreligious people subscribe to it and at least seven of the world's religions have a version of it in their sacred scriptures. Decent people from a variety of religions and philosophies agree that certain honorable values are necessary for the civilized functioning of society.

Our city

We cannot be a real community without a shared set of uplifting moral values. We can be grateful to religious conservatives for emphasizing to us the importance of this principle. Neither can we be a real community if the sacred personal beliefs of one group are imposed on other groups with equally sacred different personal beliefs. We can be grateful to religious liberals and humanistically-oriented people for emphasizing to us the importance of this principle.

Colorado Springs has, fairly or unfairly, become known beyond its borders for the polarization that exists between conservatives and liberals, between religious traditionalists and religious liberals and humanists. However, we need not be polarized on the issue of promoting decent behavior in our children. It would be an enjoyable irony if we could send to Washington a "moment of silence" plan based on cooperation between our so-called incurably polarized parties. **CP**

Inside CP

CP restructuring

We have been taking a closer look at what we do and how we do it. After reviewing our operation, we felt that Citizens Project can be leaner, more efficient and as effective by relying more on our spirited volunteers. Accordingly, we have eliminated the position of executive director and enlarged the board of directors and the volunteer corps. Executive Director Bill Huddy has left us this month, and we extend a very special thanks to him for the work he has done for Citizens Project. Pat Tolle is now our "communications central."

Our board of directors has expanded, and we welcome as new directors Jody Alyn, Gwen

Hall, and Marjory Webster. Amy Divine is taking a leave of absence due to her health, but will still be working on special projects (we can't keep her away!). We welcome Richard Skorman as the new board chair.

Office hours and volunteers

The Citizens Project office now has regular office hours 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday. However, we are often available and answering the phone other hours. We are currently looking for volunteers to work in the office Monday or Friday 1-4 p.m. and for someone with accounting skills (for about two hours per month); please call Pat at 520-9899 if you want to get involved. **CP**

News Briefs

New Life invites gay singers

New Life Church, which planned the 1995 Easter sunrise service at the Garden of the Gods, helped create a more inclusive worship of God in our community. They invited singers from Metropolitan Community Church, a Christian denomination with many gays and lesbians, to join the choir for the well-attended early morning service. According to newspaper reports, however, not everyone was pleased to sing God's praise in such diverse company.

Cornerstone: We can baptize anybody!

Cornerstone Baptist Church here in Colorado Springs made new headlines for allegations that it "accidentally" baptized a Jewish boy last February, even after agreeing not to do so. Ten other families called a local television station to say that their children were also baptized without permission. According to one of the children, a Cornerstone member told them that their first baptism didn't count. Cornerstone Church is already in court on a lawsuit, charged with luring children to a 1993 church carnival and baptizing nearly twenty of them without parental permission. Parents of at least two more children are expected to sue the church due to this latest incident.

In responding to the 1993 lawsuit, Cornerstone says it had the consent of the children, and no permission was required from the parents. That position forms a curious contrast to the traditional conservative religious stand on the importance for parental involvement in other critical decisions in a child's life.

Northglenn charter school controversy

A charter school in Northglenn (near Denver) had wanted to dismiss teachers who have sex outside of marriage. Now, the same school introduced creationist materials in one class. One of the student handouts suggested that students read the Bible "for the real truth." Parents, concerned that public tax money is being used by this charter school to promote restrictive religious views, have asked that the school charter be revoked.

Christian Coalition disputes Dobson

In his March letter to supporters, Dr. Dobson of Focus on the Family threatened to support a third-party candidate if the Republican Party nominated a presidential candidate who was not firmly pro-life. This letter was sent out to 112,000 clergy, 8,000 politicians, 1,500 members of the press, and the two million Focus supporters. However, support for that position is not universal among conservative Christian organizations. Speaking on television, Pat Robertson, head of Christian Coalition, dismissed Dobson's idea and left the door open to softening the GOP's platform on abortion.

New publications of interest

Want to know more about local political-religious activities? Then read the recently-expanded (16 pages!) *Ground Zero News*, which mines no words about Colorado For Family Values, Christian Coalition, and Focus on the Family. Call 635-6086 for a subscription - \$20 per year. In like vein, you can subscribe to *The Sentry*, a new and iconoclastic newsletter about our local political and religious scene. CFV's Kevin Tebedo has already threatened to sue them, so editor Rick Baker must be striking a nerve! \$2 for a sample copy, \$24 for a subscription to: *The Sentry*, Box 38014, Colorado Springs, CO 80937. **CP**

Coming Next Issue

The next *Freedom Watch* will feature the activities of our local Christian Coalition group, proudly touted by its chairman Chuck Gosnell as "the largest chapter in the United States."

[Continued from Page 3]

James and Audrey Martin
Jere and Ron Martin
Kathy Martin
 Joel Marx
 Wayne M. Mashburn
 Steven Maulis
Mike and Barb McAdams
Bob McAtee
 Anonymous
Frances McCandless
 Ann V. McCready
Eva and Hugh McGeehan
 Joseph D. and Marjorie A. McInerney
McKinze-White Booksellers
 Laurel McLeod
 Mary Ellen McNally
 Nancy McNamara
Kevin and Vaughan McTernan
 Cynthia McVay
Lew Menechino
 Dr. Lise Menn and William Bright
Michael Merrifield
 Marion Miller
 Roger E. and Deda S. Miller
 Sally Miller
 Joel and Pamela Mittman
 Gordon Mizell
Lin Moeller
 William Mohrman
Marion Moore
Micky Morley
 Marcy and Howard Morrison
 Mark R. Motiff
 Mountains and Plains Booksellers
 Association
Douglas J. Moyes
Deborah Muchleisen
Bette Mulholland
 Steven Mullens, Esq.
Pat Munson
 Beth Murdaugh
 Chuck Murphy, Jr.
 F. Murphy
 Jim and Margo Musante
 Olive and Jean Musick
 Barb Myers
Julia Nace
Mary S. Nanninga
 Anonymous
 L.R. and Chris Nicholl
 Al and Catharine Nitka
 Ron Nunnery
 Benjamin and Maureen Nystuen
 Morris and Adele Obodov
 Irene Ogus
Janet and Tim Oliver
 Ken Olson
Ross Orr
JoAnn and John Orsborn
 Carolyn and Daniel Osborn
 Alan Osur
 John Otto
Ginny Page
 Joan Paranka

Mitzi Pasternak
 Jonathan and Carol Patten
 Randy Payne
Melody Pearson
 Ken Pellow and Marie McCauley
 Carol Peterson
 Joanne Peterson and Bob Falcone
Jim and Joan Phillips
Joseph Pickle, Jr.
Ron, Elaine and Jenny Pierce
 Libby Pitman
 Anonymous
 Dr. Claude and Caroline Poliakoff
 Jeff Polk
 Susan and John Potterat
Jane and Rex Povenmire
Rosemary Prindle
Diane K. Pugh
 Francois Raab
 H. Rudy and Alice Ramsey
 Warren and Mildred Rasmussen
 Tim and Shery Reid
 Cathy Reilly and Charles Slack
 JoHannah Reilly, ND
Hal Render
 Judith Reynolds
Lynn and Gary Rhodes
Thomas Rieck
Teresa Rinaldo
Barbara and Arthur Roberts
 Donna and Tom Roberts
Bea Roeder
Steve and Marcia Rogat
Mary Roll
 Lynn Rosen
 Mary and Tom Ross
Lynn Roth
 Fran Rulon-Miller
 Raphael Sassower
Mary G. Schaffer
Steve Schriener
 Gene M. Schroeder
 Monica Schultz
 Doris I. Schwandt
 Steven and Marsha Schwartz
 Conny Seay
 Ron Shapiro
 Mike Shaver
Jane and Van Shaw
 Merr Shearn
 Kimberley Sherwood
 and Charles Gale
Jim Shikles
Pamela S. Shockley-Zalabak
John and Janette Simons
Cynthia A. Slater
 Curtis F. and Susan F. Smith
Cate Snow
 Bea Snyder
Rita Soller
 Marion Sondermann
 Carl and Judy Spaulding
 Beverly Spencer
Randy Stafford
 Anonymous
Jane K. Stauduhar

Rex and Kate Stephenson
Alfred J. Straughan
 Jef Strauss
Vanessa Taft
 James and Jeneane Tate
Linda Teets
Margaretta T. Thayer
 Ellen Thomas
 Jim B. Thompson
Sara Tiede
 Martha Tilley
 Patricia Tolle
William A. Toth
 Mike Tracy
 Lamar Trant
 Elizabeth Traver
Brenda Trehus and Jim Hodgson
 Lindy L. Tudor
 Anonymous
 United Court of the Pikes Peak Empire
Anonymous
 Mark and Rosalie Van Horn
 Ruth Veneris
Wendy and Joe Venturella
 Bill and Adele Vickers
 Susan Lazcom Vines
 Sandy Vivas
Paul and Linda Viotti
David Vogel
Lucinda and Bill Voorhees
 Anonymous
 Randy Wagner and Dr. Sally Doyle
 Anonymous
 Frank and Therese Walker
 Thurman Warner
 Jane E. Wasson
Peggy Watt
 Charles Webb
 Dinny and Terri Weber
 Anne Weiner
 Linda and Barry Weiner
Donn and Eileen Weipert
 Carol and Ed Weissler
Natalie Welch
 Barbara and John Welles
Patricia and Joe Wells
Mary Lou Whalen
 Dick Whaley
 Jeffrey R. Wheeler
 Terry and Rori Whelan
 Dr. Susan Whitmore
 Barbara L. Whitten
 Julie Willis
 Nicholas Wilson
 Colleen and Clark Winchester
 Gaynelle and Ed Winograd
 Ronald and Jane Wisner
Stephen Witty
 Marty Wolf and Chris Carlson
 Priscilla Wright
Richard Wunderli
 Anonymous
 Barbara L. Yashchik
Rush and Marian Young
 Anonymous
 Martin and Cecile Zelinsky

Special Thanks also to:

Els and A.W. Abercrombie
The Abramson Family
 Seymour and Hope Abramson
 Wesley and Jennie Anderson
James and Elin Ashenhurst
 Pam Banta
 Laura Barry
 Donna Bauer
 Jeff Bieri
 Craig and Jayne Blewitt
 Laura Boone-DiBiase
 Anonymous
 Gina Cerasani and Robert Haase
 Thomas and Vicki Clark
 Colorado Education Association
 Karen Crawford
Gordon Cufphy and Dianne Nilsen
 Jim Darnell
 Carlene and Ted Decker
 Sue Elak
 Connie Elliott
 Gary and Mary Flansburg
 Chris Fredde
 Wilson and Katherine Gateley
 Esther Geoffrey
 Bob and Ann Green
 Patty Greenberg
 Jerold and Anne Greenker
 Paul and Marion Hale
 Karen Hall
 Anonymous
 Lisa M. Hazelton
 Marion Hazzard
 Kay Heim
 Anonymous
 John Hills and Karen Meadows
 Ralph and Donna Homan
 Gary and Barb Hopkins
 Louise D. Hose
 Mr. and Mrs. S. Jacobs
 Jerri Johnson
 Rev. Harvey Joyner
 Nancy Keene

Anonymous
 Mary Jo Kraus
 Jerry Langin-Hooper
 Eric Levine and Maggie Garfield
 Judy Lewallen
 Richard Lund
 Commander Drew Malcomb
 James and Julia McNamara
 Brenda Mensink and Dean Tollefson
 Donna Merrifield
 Jack Miller
 Barbara Mitchell
 Leonard Mollica
 Kent Nelson
 Sue E. Neufeld
 Sarah Owens
 Carole Partin
 Bijan Pirnia
 Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Pizzo
 Planned Parenthood, Security Clinic
 Carol Powell
 George Raabe
 Almira Rhodes
 Anonymous
 Anne Sayers and Jim Gustafson
 Sue Scott
 The John and Dindy Sheridan Family
 Linda Silveira, MD
 and Bob Carlson, PhD
 Anonymous
 Anonymous
 Donald Stephenson
 Carole Stewart
 Ilse Stratton
 Eric and Cathy Swab
 Dorothy Turner
 Jim Umphrey and Marilyn
 Vaughn
 Helene Weiss
 Lucy West
 Joy Wexels

For information on becoming a
 Sustaining Partner call the office
 at 520-9899.

*Our Mission: Citizens Project is a grassroots organization in the Pikes Peak
 region dedicated to upholding the traditional American values of pluralism,
 freedom of religion and separation of church and state.*



P.O. Box 2085,
 Colorado Springs,
 Colorado 80901
 Phone: (719) 520-9899
 Fax: (719) 520-0118

Editor	Staff
Doug Triggs	Pat Tolle
Board of Directors	Gwen Hall
Richard Skorman, Chair	Bruce Loeffler
Jody Alyn	Dave Porter
Peg Bacon	Greg Walta
Pastor Jesse Brown, Jr.	Marjory Webster
Bruce Coriell	Altresa Williams

Freedom Watch is a monthly publication of Citizens Project. Subscription available
 for a \$15 suggested donation. © 1995. Citizens Project. All rights reserved.

Poor Richard's Bookstore

We Want Your Used Books! We're Always Buying Quality Used Books!



ROCKET-POWERED ARMADILLO SAVINGS!

Check Out The NITRO-BURNIN' Deals On These Great Titles!

The Chess Player's Handbook	NOW	\$7.99
Furniture from the Southwest	WAS \$12.95	NOW \$6.50
The Great and Secret Show-Audio	WAS \$15.95	NOW \$2.00
The Art of Tom Lovell	WAS \$60.00	NOW \$15.00
The Art of Frank McCarthy	WAS \$60.00	NOW \$15.00
Native American Dance	WAS \$24.95	NOW \$12.50
The Wordsworth Concise German Dictionary	NOW	\$4.99
The Colorado Guide	WAS \$16.95	NOW \$8.50
Doom II: The Official Strategy Guide	WAS \$19.95	NOW \$10.00
Return to Zork: Adventurer's Guide	WAS \$14.95	NOW \$7.50
Lords of Chaos (hardcover)	WAS \$25.95	NOW \$6.00

MANY OTHER GREAT VALUES WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!!

All New Books
10-65%OFF!
 All Used Books
50-75%OFF!
 Bestsellers Hardbacks
35%OFF!
 New Releases
25%OFF!
 Calendars
10%OFF!